THE PERMANENCY OF THE BUILDING IN HYDE-PARK.

THE general opinion is, that it would be desirable to establish, and, if possible, perpetuate, the building as a winter garden: it would shock the public expectation to see so vast a pile cleared away when it had answered the transitory object of sheltering the accumulated tributes of industry at the close of the year 1851.

As the temperature would be equable, the verdure must be perpetual, affording to the inhabitants of this ungenial clime a biding spring.

Such a place of resort would not only supersede others now in use, but would be crowded at seasons when the "hard inhabitant" should otherwise keep his chamber; and if visitors were admitted at only 2d. each, 5,000 daily would yield a sum exceeding 40*l.*—an amount sufficient, not only to pay a staff of gardeners, but to stock the grounds under shelter with all the richest products of earth.

If, however, the structure is to be perpetual, it strikes me that the gutter-beams, which are scooped out by machinery, should be lined with leaden or other metallic ducts to carry off the water: being of deal, these gutters are liable to crack, from the alternate drought and moisture, and, if even pitched over, in the old fashion, they are sure to rot in a few years: besides, I doubt very much for the security of costly articles, even during one season, if the water furrows be not properly lined.

When the whole fabric is complete, there may be some difficulty in remedying this defect; and it is certain that unless some means are pre-arranged for obtaining access to the lofty exterior (for the repair of glass, &c., to say nothing of snow-drifts), it will be a work of great difficulty and danger to restore any accidental damage. QUONDAM.

WORKS IN IRELAND.

THE works on the Cork and Bandon Railway have been progressing rapidly for the last twelve months. Nine miles out of the ten between Cork and Ballinhassig are now ready to receive the rails. The Cork station on the Monerea Marsh, adjoining Albert-quay, has been some time in progress, and the foundations are now above ground. The Goggin's-hill tunnel will be bored thorough in about three months: it is 1,000 yards in length, and more than three-fourths of it is at present executed. The first two great ribs of the viaduct, by which the railway is to cross the Chetwynd Valley, were raised and fixed last week. This viaduct is the largest of the kind "*as yet*" constructed in Ireland. It is 500 feet from abutment to abutment, and at a height of 100 feet over the valley. It consists of four opens, each of 110 feet span, with two abutments, and three massive cut limestone piers 70 feet high, decorated with Antæ and bold projecting cornices, which impart to the structure an appearance of great solidity. The superstructure, which weighs about 1,000 tons, is composed entirely of cast-iron. Each span consists of four cast-iron arched ribs, 3 feet deep, 110 feet span, and having a rise of 20 feet in the centre. Resting on the ribs and piers, and running right through from abutment to abutment, are four lines of cast-iron spandrils, retained and braced across by cast-iron frames and wrought-iron tie-rods, connected on the top by the roadway, formed of cast-iron covering plates flanged and bolted together; the whole finished with a neatly moulded handrail and projecting cornice.

For the purpose of raising and framing the ironwork, two lines of whole timbers have been laid from pier to pier, 26 feet apart, and at a height of 70 feet from the level of the ground at the centre. Two distinct lines of framed scaffolding, composed of upright finished balks 26 feet apart, support these timbers, oblique struts from the uprights supporting the intermediate span: the whole is maintained in its position by numerous wallings, struts, and braces. Rails are laid on the top of the two lines of timbers, that the travelling platform erected on them may be moved longitudinally to any required position. The travellers, of which four are required to raise each rib, are composed of two vertical parallel frames, 26 feet apart, 25 feet high, and 5 feet wide on the top. Each frame rests on rollers on the longitudinal beams, which, from the necessity of including sufficient space between them to admit of raising and permanently fixing the whole superstructure, could only be commenced at the top, where they support a wrought-iron trussed platform, capable of sustaining a weight of over 10 tons.

On the platform is placed a crab-engine for lifting the castings, and which can move laterally on iron ribs laid on the platform for that purpose. The ribs are cast in four pieces of about 4½ tons each. The pieces are formed with broad flanges at either end, by which they are bolted together when raised to their proper position in the arch. When a rib is to be raised, the four pieces of which it is composed, having previously been planed, fitted, and marked at the foundry, are placed on the ground, each under its ultimate position in the arch. The travelling platforms are then moved along the longitudinal rails, until each platform is over its particular casting. The crab engine is then moved laterally across the platform to a position directly over the line the rib will occupy when fixed: ropes are attached, and the four parts of the rib are lifted separately but simultaneously, by five men working each crab, and, when raised to the required height, the two parts next the piers are first placed, with their ends abutting against cast-iron shoe plates previously fixed in the masonry for them to rest in. The two centre pieces are then raised and placed with their flanged ends against those already fixed: both are inserted and screwed tight, and the whole rib is made secure. When two ribs have been erected, they are connected by diagonal bracing frames, bolted to each rib. The machinery is so contrived, that a rib of nearly 20 tons weight can be raised and fixed by twenty men in the course of a few hours.

The Evans Mausoleum, in the church of St. Peter and Paul, at Kilmallock, is nearly finished by an artist, Mr. John Purcell, of Limerick.

The Poor-law Commissioners purpose erecting some additional buildings (to accommodate 300 persons) in connection with the Killadysert Union Auxiliary Workhouse: the drawings, &c. for same have been made by the commissioners' architect, Mr. Wilkinson.

The Ballyteigne drainage and embankment are now approaching completion, and are likely to realise the expectations of the projectors. The work is divided into two distinct branches, the first of which is a catchwater, or navigable canal, about six and a half miles in length, crossing the north-west portion of the reclaimed lands, from the main channel at Lacken, to the village of Bridgetown, and intersecting in its course three considerable rivers and several rivulets, and receiving the surface water of 300 acres of land, which it conveys to the sea. The second branch of this work is an embankment at Cull, by which 3,000 acres of marsh and slob land will be reclaimed. In order to perfect the drainage of this extensive tract after the embankment, a series of self-acting and fixed sluices, with other machinery, are constructed to act with the tide, and which at low water permit the surface water accumulated from the rain or land springs to escape. The canal is crossed at Baldwinstown, Redmoor, Liffey, and Saltbridge, by four substantial bridges. The works, which are being erected under the supervision of the Drainage Commissioners of the Board of Public Works, are stated to be permanent and substantial.

The Commissioners of the Board of Public Works purpose erecting new school-rooms at the Royal Hibernian Military School.

The Poor-Law Commissioners have decided upon building a new union workhouse at Urlingford, county Kilkenny, according to drawings furnished by their architect, Mr. Wilkinson.

A new church is about being erected in the town of Portlaw.

A new stand-house is to be built on the Curragh of Kildare: a number of gentlemen lately met in the Dublin terminus of the Great Southern and Western Railway to decide upon plans submitted for same by Mr. S. Wood, architect, which they finally approved of.

The building operations in Belfast are expected to be so extensive immediately, that much additional ground suitable for brick-making has already been broken. In the new line of street alone, contracts to the amount of between 20,000*l.* and 30,000*l.* including that for the new Corn Exchange, will be commenced early in spring; and it is confidently expected that Government will give a grant for the erection of a new custom-house, although they have refused to supersede the present inconvenient post-office with one more suited to the requirements of a commercial town, like Belfast, unless the inhabitants raised a subscription to erect it.

The Board of Guardians of Ardee Union, purpose erecting an addition to the entrance building of the workhouse in the male probationary ward, according to the drawings prepared by the Poor-Law Commissioners' architect.

The Board of Guardians of the Carrick-on-Suir Union intend erecting two additional wings in connection with the main building of the workhouse, according to the plans, &c. by the Poor-Law Commissioners' architect.

A plan for a new road to the Queen's College, Cork, has been prepared by Mr. C. W. Law, and drawn by Mr. W. Fogarty, scholar of the college. It is proposed to open a new line on the western road directly opposite Mardyke-street, thence to run through the quarry, past the college up to the Bandon-road. It is contemplated that there should be branch entrances to the cathedral and palace.

The Ecclesiastical Commissioners purpose rebuilding the church of Upper Moville, county Donegal.

BISHOPS' THRONES IN EARLY CHURCHES.

CARDINAL WISEMAN, in his installation address, Dec. 6th, treated his audience to an archæological disquisition on the episcopal seat, mentioning the fact that a seat for the bishop existed in every church, and that in the catacombs a marble seat for this purpose had been discovered. "And no sooner had the Christians emerged from their hiding-places, and taken possession of the temples of the heathen, or built for themselves basilicas, than they erected a seat or episcopal throne at the very extremity of the church under the apse, an ample well-built *throne*, around which the presbyters sat, that so the stability of that seat might denote the permanency of that succession that was to ensue therein." The cardinal must, indeed, have been hard pressed for an argument, and his courage assumed the aspect of desperation, when he ventured to allude to the arrangements adopted by the primitive Christians, and, from their practices in these matters, deduce reasons in support of his own church. It is undeniably true that there was a seat at the end of each church, basilica, king's house, conventicle, or meeting-house, as it was commonly designated, on which the presiding elder or bishop sat, and from which he preached,—an arrangement followed in all times wherever a public body met together for social purposes: the bishop's seat was identical in use and intention with that which every corporate body erects for its presiding magistrate, identical with that which every public meeting provides for its chairman; and as the bishop's seat was, as the cardinal rightly explains, at the extreme end of the hall, and as from this seat the bishop always preached, this fact alone, even if we had not the ancient buildings to testify to the same truth, would prove that there was no screen existing between the bishop and the people: there was not even a distinctive name for the bishop's seat in primitive times, but the platform on which he sat was simply called a chancell, from the Latin word *cancelli*, the low railing at the edge of it. On this platform, in primitive churches, the communion-table was never placed, but invariably stood in the midst of the people. Bearing these facts in mind, and also recollecting that the people adopting these arrangements were converts either from Judaism or Paganism, having no other idea of religious worship than as connected with temples, into which the laity were not admitted, in which there was always a screened holy place, which the priest alone could enter, and a stone altar on which the priests invariably offered up material sacrifices,—bearing in mind these facts, and the difficulty of changing

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